

DEQ Efforts to Improve Disclosure Processes for NPDES Permit Applications

Even without new statutes and rules being established yet staff have identified several areas where the disclosure process can be improved that are being referenced with current permitting applications, including:

- Disclose by-products, intermediates and compounds or any other compounds known to be formed upon release to water.
- Cross reference TRI and SARA Title III data on chemicals used at facilities as staff review NPDES applications.
- Wastewater schematics outlining chemicals and concentrations.
- Require disclosure of effluent limits/Consent Orders in other states/countries
- Provide health data available for chemicals

Staff are also in the process of evaluating disclosure requirements used by other states.

A meeting with industrial stakeholders was held in late November to discuss improved disclosure process ideas. Staff are in the process of scheduling a meeting with environmental groups and a separate one with municipal wastewater treatment plant operators to gather their ideas on improving the disclosure process.

An enhancement to the existing ambient monitoring strategy is underway to better characterize emerging compounds in the watersheds across the state. This data will help inform the agency in determining necessary monitoring requirements that need to be included in NPDES permits.